

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 6 and 11 are currently amended and Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-21 remain unchanged. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claim 21 and indication that Claims 6, 7 and 11-17 include allowable subject matter.

Allowable original Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 6 is allowable. Claim 7 depends from independent Claim 6 and is allowable for the same and other reasons.

Allowable original Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, newly-independent Claim 11 is allowable. Claim 12-17 depend from independent Claim 11 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

The remaining claims stand rejected under the prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 1-5, 8 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Takeyama (JP4-307096). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeyama. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeyama in view of Rhode et al. (US 6,374,644).

Independent Claim 1 recites in a laundry dryer having a rotatable drum with a filling orifice issuing into the drum and a door for closing the filling orifice, a drying rack comprising: at least two air-permeable surfaces holding in a stationary manner within the drum a batch of laundry to be dried: being disposed at a distance one above another in an operating state thereof; and having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice; and fastening devices removably fastening said surfaces to the laundry dryer.

As discussed in the response to the previous Office action, Takeyama discloses a clothes holding rack including side lattices and a rear lattice. The side lattices along with the rear lattice surround three sides of the lattice bottom (51) and three sides of the lattice insert (9). The holding rack of Takeyama is enclosed on three sides and only provides access from the front side. Takeyama does not disclose a drying rack comprising, among other things, at least two air-permeable surfaces each having a front side defining an

access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice. Rather, in Takeyama, the side lattices (52) and the rear lattice (53) specifically prevents, and teaches away from, “a side defining at least one further access orifice,” as recited in Claim 1.

For these and other reasons, Takeyama does not anticipate Claim 1, and withdrawal of the corresponding rejection is respectfully requested. Claims 2-5 and 8-10 depend from Claim 1 and should be allowed for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

Independent Claim 18 recites a laundry dryer, comprising: a rotatable drum with a filling orifice issuing into said drum, said drum having a front bearing plate with a loading orifice and plate fastening devices; a door connected to said bearing plate for closing at least one of said filling orifice and said loading orifice; and a drying rack having: at least two air-permeable surfaces holding in a stationary manner within said drum a batch of laundry to be dried: being disposed at a distance one above another in an operating state thereof; and having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice; and rack fastening devices removably fastening said surfaces to said plate fastening devices and matching said plate fastening devices.

As discussed above in relation to Claim 1, Takeyama does not disclose a drying rack comprising, among other things, at least two air-permeable surfaces each having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice. The remarks above in relation to Claim 1 are also applicable to Claim 18, since Claim 18 also recites, among other things, “at least two air-permeable surfaces holding in a stationary manner within said drum a batch of laundry to be dried: being disposed at a distance one above another in an operating state thereof; and having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice.”

For these and other reasons, Takeyama does not anticipate Claim 18, and withdrawal of the corresponding rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 19 recites a laundry dryer, comprising: a housing; a rotatable drum with a filling orifice issuing into said drum, said drum: being rotatably connected to said housing; and having a front bearing plate with a loading orifice and plate fastening devices; a door connected to said housing for closing at least one of said filling orifice

and said loading orifice; and a drying rack having: at least two air-permeable surfaces holding in a stationary manner within said drum a batch of laundry to be dried: being disposed at a distance one above another in an operating state thereof; and having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice; and rack fastening devices removably fastening said surfaces to said plate fastening devices and corresponding with said plate fastening devices.

As discussed above in relation to Claim 1, Takeyama does not disclose a drying rack comprising, among other things, at least two air-permeable surfaces each having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice. The remarks above in relation to Claim 1 are also applicable to Claim 19, since Claim 19 also recites, among other things, "at least two air-permeable surfaces holding in a stationary manner within said drum a batch of laundry to be dried: being disposed at a distance one above another in an operating state thereof; and having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice."

For these and other reasons, Takeyama does not anticipate Claim 19, and withdrawal of the corresponding rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 20 recites a laundry dryer drying rack, comprising: at least two air-permeable surfaces for holding in a stationary manner a batch of laundry to be dried within a rotatable drum of a laundry dryer, said surfaces: being disposed at a distance one above another in an operating state thereof; and having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice; and fastening devices for removably fastening said surfaces to the laundry dryer.

As discussed above in relation to Claim 1, Takeyama does not disclose a drying rack comprising, among other things, at least two air-permeable surfaces each having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice. The remarks above in relation to Claim 1 are also applicable to Claim 20, since Claim 20 also recites, among other things, "at least two air-permeable surfaces for holding in a stationary manner a batch of laundry to be dried within a rotatable drum of a laundry dryer, said surfaces: being disposed at a distance one above another in an operating state thereof; and having a front side defining an access orifice and a side defining at least one further access orifice."

For these and other reasons, Takeyama does not anticipate Claim 20, and withdrawal of the corresponding rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 1-20, in addition to previously allowed Claim 21, are respectfully requested. Please note the enclosed Supplemental Application Data Sheet has been updated to provide additional attorney contacts. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig J. Loest", written in a cursive style.

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